



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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BRASENIA SCHREBERI **WATERSHIELD**

Watershield is an aquatic perennial with branches that rise through the water, floating leaves, and emergent flowers. The leaves have long petioles centrally attached to the undersides of the floating leaf blades. The broadly elliptic to oval leaf blades are 4-12 cm long and 3-8 cm wide. Solitary flowers are held just above the water on long stalks. Flowers usually have 3 sepals and 3 petals that are similar, translucent reddish-purple colored, linear to lance-shaped, and 1-1.5 cm long. There are 4-14 pistils and 12-36 purplish stamens that are about the same length as the petals and sepals. The leathery, beaked fruits are 6-8 mm long and mature underwater. Flowering in August.

Distinguished from other water lilies, including species of *NUPHAR* and *NYMPHAEA*, by its relatively small, purplish flowers with more than 1 pistil, and by its relatively small leaves that are attached to the petiole at the center of the underside.